Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

February 16*th.*

Vice President **Bridges** in the Chair.

Thirty-nine members present.

Mr. Ashmead called the attention of members to a Marine Alga which he had discovered about three years since at Beesley's Point. From the microscopic structure of the frond, he supposed it to be a Callithamnion, and not finding it described in Nereis Boreali-Americana, he concluded it was a new species. He had referred it to the late Prof. Bailey, of West Point, who returned it with the remark, "I cannot make this agree with any Callithamnion known to me; if it were truly dichotomous, I should refer it to *Griffithsia setacea*, but without its fruit I cannot decide what it is. It is an interesting plant, and ought to be watched for, at different times in the year, so as to secure its fruit." During the past summer, I collected, at Beesley's Point, quite a number of specimens of this plant; I found them growing in shallow water, attached to old shells and other submerged substances; but I found none in fruit. Upon the examination of a number of specimens, I formed the conclusion that the plant belongs to the genus Griffithsia, and is a new species. Under this impression, I sent specimens to Prof. Harvey, of Trinity College, Dublin, for examination. I recently received a letter from that distinguished Algologist, and though not with a view to publication, I presume an extract may be presented without impropriety. Dr. Harvey says: "The supposed new Griffithsia, sent in one of your parcels, is *Griffithsia tenuis*, J. Ag., identical with the specimens in my herbarium, from Agardh himself. The American plant is a little stronger in growth than the European, but I see no character to separate it. The fruit is unknown. Your specimens are not in fruit. The genus to which it belongs is therefore doubtful; and I am therefore disposed to think that it will turn out to be a Callithamnion—an opinion I arrived at, because it is very closely allied to *Callithamnion thysigerum*, of Australia and Ceylon, the fruit of which is known to me. Indeed, it is possible that Callithamnion thysigerum itself may be only a variety of *Griffithsia tenuis*." This alga is interesting as an addition to the marine flora of the American coast.

Mr. Lesley described a curious reverse drainage of the uplands bordering the Ohio river on each side, near Ironton, and within the limits of the coal region of southern Ohio and Kentucky. On climbing the river cliffs about 300 feet, the summit is found to be formed by a stratum of conglomerate about fifty feet thick, and one looks over into bowl-shaped heads of small valleys, delivering their waters backward, and only reaching the river by circuits more or less extensive. These valley heads are so close to the great river valley, that short tunnels driven along in the *almost* horizontal coal-beds would suffice to bring out the ores which crop around them. The barriers are lofty knife edges or thin walls, or strips of horizontal conglomerate, the place of which in the coal measures is about 500 feet from the bottom. The dip of the strata is only about thirty feet to the mile, and contrary to the current of the river. It would be difficult, he thought, to explain this structure by the popular theories of denudation, or any hypothethis, unless subærial deluges.

Mr. Powel protested against the too constant recourse to immediate volcanic agency in explaining geological phenomena. In the Pottsville region the strata were often folded and contorted by side pressure from various causes, with no close or immediate local evidence of volcanic agency, it being often seen only far off. The structure of the Ohio valley now mentioned, might have occurred originally as a mere crack in the conglomerate, perhaps caused by a very trifling local upheaval, or a slight shrinkage, or even a subsidence at a distance, this would determine the original line of drainage, and attrition might, in time, produce such a valley as Mr. Lesley had described.

Mr. Lesley thought the valley could not have suffered from volcanic force, for it was tortuous like the suture of a skull, not straight like the profound lines of fault in the Appalachians of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tennessee."

Mr. Foulke described the Deep River country as one of straight valleys walled in by vertical cliffs two or three hundred feet high, which he thought were evidently fractures of the crust.

Mr. Lesley described the Kanawha country to show that, if so, then the crust must be looked upon as having suffered a shivering rupture with open and profound cracks running irregularly or aborescently. But such fissures could not have been filled up, and their sides sloped off to form a country like western Virginia.

Dr. Woodhouse described the canons of the Pacific side, as sometimes sedimentary on one side, and volcanic or metamorphic on the other, and sometimes having lava streams in the middle.

February 23*d.*

Vice President Lea in the Chair.

Sixty-six members present.

The amendments to the By-Laws offered at the previous meeting for business, were read a second time and unanimously passed to a third reading.

The Auditors reported they had examined the Annual Report of the Treasurer, and compared it with the vouchers, and that they had found it correct; which report was adopted.

March 2*nd.*

Vice President Lea in the Chair.

Forty-eight members present.

Dr. Wilcocks read a paper entitled "Remarks on an Optical Illusion, by Alexander Wilcocks, M. D."

A paper was presented, entitled "Descriptions of new Organic Remains, collected in Nebraska Territory, by Dr. F. V. Hayden and others, under the direction of Lieut. G. K. Warren, U. S. Topographical Engineers, with some remarks on the Geology of the Black Hills, and portions of the surrounding country, by F. B. Meek and F. V. Hayden, M. D." which was referred to a committee.

Dr. Leidy read a letter from Mr. F. B. Meek and Dr. F. V. Hayden, dated Albany, Feb. 16th, 1858, indicating the probable existence of Permian Rocks in Kansas Territory, from which, at the request of the authors, the following extract is published.

"Some six months since, Major F. Hawn, of Weston, Missouri, to whom we are under many obligations for interesting information respecting the geology of Kansas Territory, sent on to one of us* a small collection of fossils from a locality near the junction of Solomon's and Smoky Hill forks of Kansas River. A portion of these fossils were at once recognized as being types common in the coal measures of the west. Along with these, however, there were several masses

---

(*Mr. Meek.)